



# Marine Protected Areas Federal Advisory Committee

May 31, 2017

The Honorable Wilbur Ross  
Secretary of Commerce  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Ave., NW  
Washington, D.C. 20230

The Honorable Ryan Zinke  
Secretary of the Interior  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington D.C. 20240

Subject: Marine Protected Areas Federal Advisory Committee Re-authorization and Meeting Request

Dear Secretary Ross and Secretary Zinke:

I am writing on behalf of the Marine Protected Areas Federal Advisory Committee. By law, the committee must be reauthorized by September 30, 2017, to continue our work, which contributes to the economic and environmental vitality of our country. We respectfully request that you urge the President to re-authorize this volunteer committee in advance of the deadline.

Our mandate is to provide expert advice to the Departments of Commerce and the Interior to increase the efficiency and efficacy of marine protected areas. The committee provides benefits to the nation by:

- Representing diverse constituencies from across the country, including industry and nongovernment representatives, small business owners, commercial and recreational fishermen, tourism professionals, educators, academics, state and tribal leaders, and informed members of the public;
- Producing timely, actionable strategies requested by both Departments that support the economic and ecological prosperity of the nation, such as our recent reports on innovative financing for MPAs and on connecting MPAs for greater effectiveness (see other products at <http://marineprotectedareas.noaa.gov/fac/products/>); and
- Providing opportunities for public input on a broad suite of issues, including coastal and homeland security, local and regional industry development, food security, human health, and living and non-living marine resources.

## **CHAIR**

**Brian Baird**  
The Bay Institute and Aquarium of the Bay

## **VICE CHAIR**

**Katy Croff Bell, Ph.D.**  
Ocean Exploration Trust

## **MEMBERS**

**John Anderson**  
Nossaman LLP

**John Ballotti**  
Coastal Conservation Association

**Alex Brylske, Ph.D.**  
Florida Keys Community College

**Mark Carr, Ph.D.**  
University of California,  
Santa Cruz

**Jack Cox**  
Crystal Coast Fisheries

**Martha Honey, Ph.D.**  
Center for Responsible Travel

**Christopher Horton**  
Congressional Sportsmen's  
Foundation

**Jacque Hostler-Carmesin**  
Trinidad Rancheria

**Stephanie Madsen**  
At Sea Processors Association

**William McClintock, Ph.D.**  
Marine Science Institute, UCSB

**Lynn McClure**  
National Parks Conservation  
Association

**Christopher Morris**  
New Jersey Historic Preservation  
Office

**Samantha Murray**  
Scripps Institution of Oceanography

**Ryan Orgera, Ph.D.**  
George Washington University

**David Robinson**  
David S. Robinson and Associates,  
Inc.

**Peter Stauffer**  
Surfrider Foundation

**Trisha Kehaulani Watson, Ph.D.,  
J.D.**  
Honua Consulting

## **DESIGNATED FEDERAL OFFICIAL**

**Lauren Wenzel**  
National Marine Protected Areas  
Center

**National MPA Center**  
1305 East-West Highway  
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3281  
(240) 533-0652  
[lauren.wenzel@noaa.gov](mailto:lauren.wenzel@noaa.gov)

[www.marineprotectedareas.noaa.gov](http://www.marineprotectedareas.noaa.gov)



# Marine Protected Areas Federal Advisory Committee

We request to meet with you to discuss the critical role our committee plays regarding balanced and informed approaches to the planning and management of U.S. marine protected areas.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this request. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian E. Baird". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Brian Baird  
Chair, Marine Protected Areas Federal Advisory Committee

cc.

Ben Friedman, Performing the duties of Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere

W. Russell Callender, Assistant Administrator, NOAA

Lauren Wenzel, Designated Federal Official, NOAA